

Naturalizing Water Features

by Mark Moore

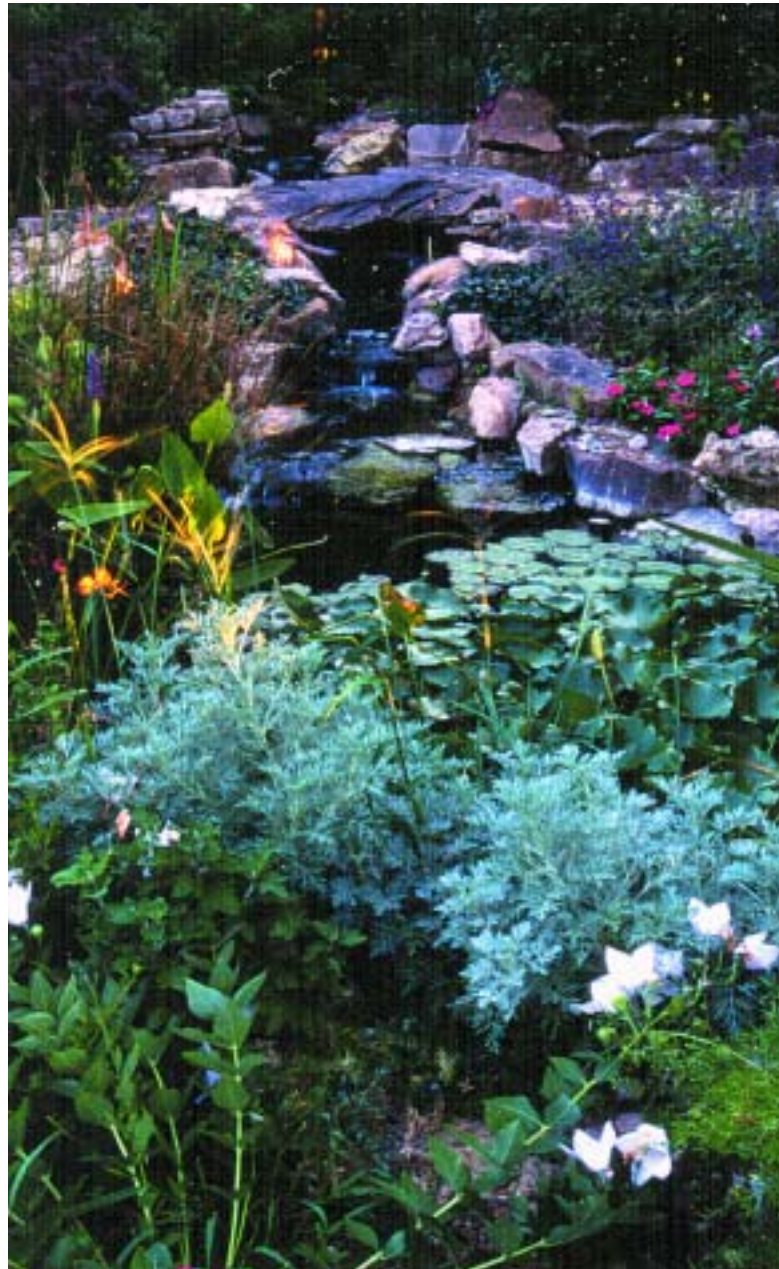
Photos by Pat and Ken Fluke

Award-winning designer Mark Moore

advises: "Don't spend a lot of time thinking about nature, spend some time out there!"

Naturalizing water features begins with studying nature and how all its elements work together. For me, understanding nature was part of my growing up. Family vacations were spent with siblings and cousins looking for adventure on mountain trails (we made our own), traipsing through streams, climbing mountains and trees, searching for yet another waterfall. It was great fun, not having a care in the world, not realizing that I was becoming a part of nature.

When recreating (I call it recreating since we try only to copy God's work) a water feature, I want it to look natural, like it's been there for 100 years. To achieve this, a water feature should include the following possibilities: a stream where the water can move over, under, around, and through; perhaps a cascading waterfall or a drop-off falls; maybe even a babbling brook, my wife's favorite.



Our naturalizing efforts are only 'recreating' nature.

Start with the stone...

For me, it starts with the stone. I avoid cut stones and mainly use stones that have been surface harvested and appear to have what I call character.

Character can be curves, crevices, uneven surfaces, even holes or bowls – areas that are cupped out and will hold water. Of course, having all character rocks may not be practical. Always look



Always look for the face of each rock – the best looking side that has been exposed to the elements.



It all starts with stone.

for the face of each rock. Every rock has a face – the best looking side of the rock or the part that has been exposed to the elements. Placement of rocks to show off the best face is important and achieves the 'natural look'. Strategically place your larger character stones so that there is a pleasing mix of large, medium and small stones, some with character, some without, with others used to support or fill space.

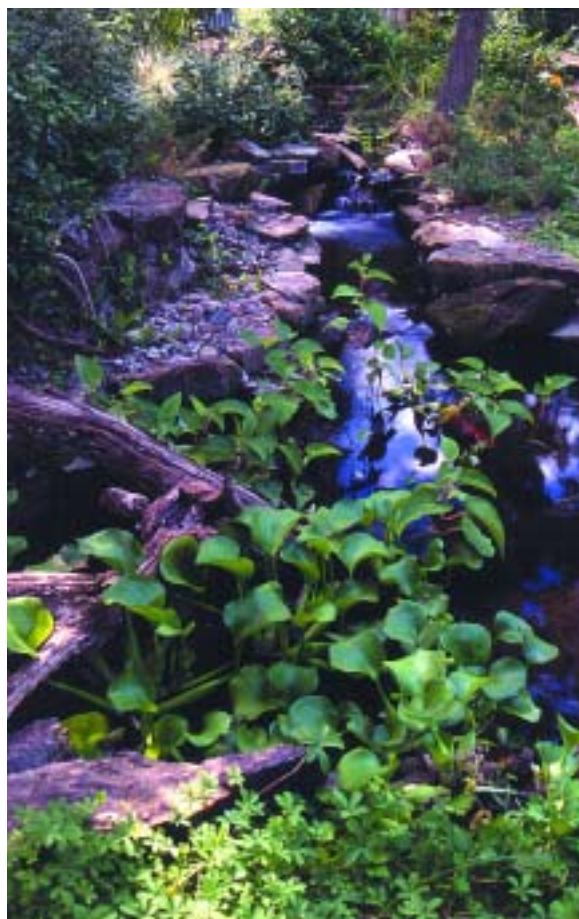


Create planting pockets among your rocks to take away that pile-of-rocks look.

add pocket plants....

I like to leave pockets or holes among the rocks for planting small aquatic plants, such as moneywort (*Lysimachia nummularia*), pennywort (*Hydrocotyle*), watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*), chocolate mint (*Mentha*) and others. The plants soften the rocks and take away that 'pile-of-rocks' look. My pet peeves in rock-laying are showing broken edges and putting a rock upside down and backwards. That means the face is down and away – a strike in my book.

I love the idea of a trickle-type fall or my newest concept, a plant fall. A plant fall features a wide mouth or entry into the pond with stone placed to leave many planting pockets for placing favorite aquatic plants. Alligator weed (*Alternanthera ficoidea*), Louisiana iris,



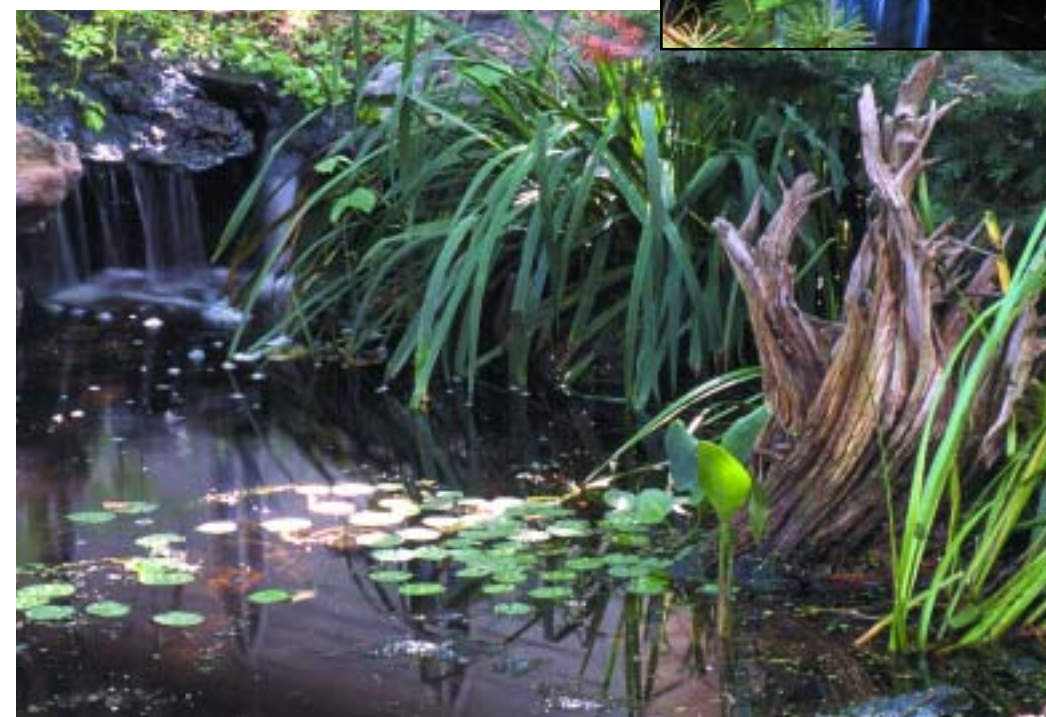
Planting pockets allow you to blend your water plants into their surrounding landscape.

corkscrew rush (*Juncus effuses* 'Spiralis'), moneywort, mints, variegated sweetflag (both *Acorus calamus* 'Variegatus' and the dwarf *Acorus gramineus* 'Ogon'), to name a few.

...and driftwood.

Many have said that one of my design trademarks is the use of driftwood. An important natural element that immediately engenders a feeling of age, driftwood can be placed in a bog or along side the pond or stream. It can stretch across the water or be buried among the stones in a stream, its protrusions creating vertical interest and perches for birds.

The use of driftwood creates an immediate effect of your water feature having been there a long time.



Tuck driftwood in and around your water feature to create natural design interest.

Provide background structure...

The use of foliage around the water feature completes the project and tucks your feature into the arms of nature. Pines, spruces, birch, and alder make effective background structure. Using height in the background nestles your feature into the earth and gives the entire project perspective. I like to use character plants like Japanese black pine, pinon pine, and Hoopsi spruce. Multiple-trunk trees of all varieties are special and appeal to our aesthetic sense of balance, especially when you can find a triple trunked specimen.

tie it together...

Use specimen plants around the feature to provide structural focus and the aesthetics of shape, texture, and color. Smaller filler material ties everything together. Just as your plantings venture to the edge of your water feature, so,

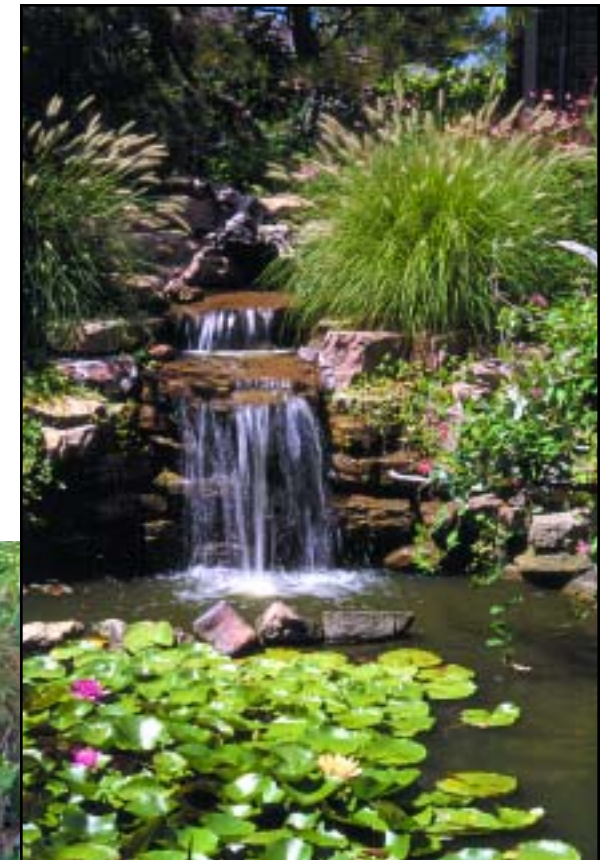


(above) Filler material, such as blooming perennials, tie the major elements of the design together.
(inset) Taller elements like trees and shrubs help to anchor your water feature within its setting.

too, should the rocks used in the feature venture out into the surrounding landscape... again, tying it all together. Ornamental grasses can play a major role in your design. Their gently swaying forms soften the landscape and are especially effective when used as transition plantings, blending together the other elements of the design.



Your naturalized landscape will feel like home to both you and God's creations.



Ornamental grasses add ambiance to their role as transition plants within your landscape.

and let the fun begin.

If you've done a good job of naturalizing, the fun elements will appear – birds, frogs and tadpoles, dragonflies, butterflies, and more. Your naturalized landscape will feel like home to both you and God's creations.✦

Mark Moore has won many awards and recognitions for his natural designs, most recently Best in Show at the 2000 Wichita Flower and Garden Show.

He can be reached at his nursery, Scenic Landscape Nursery & Water Garden Center, 5911 W Maple, Wichita, KS 67209; phone: 316-942-4861.

Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden

CHRYSANTHEMUM FESTIVAL '99

Text and photos by Pam Spindola



What better time to visit this special Japanese garden than during the annual Chrysanthemum Festival?

Approaching the walkway of gardens, the melodic strains of the koto strung musical instrument welcomed visitors to the fourth annual Chrysanthemum Festival at the Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden on the grounds of the California State University at Long Beach campus. The autumn celebration of the beautiful flower, Japan's Imperial symbol, brought people together to appreciate the art, music, and dance of Japan. Ladies in kimonos arranged flowers in a traditional Japanese style

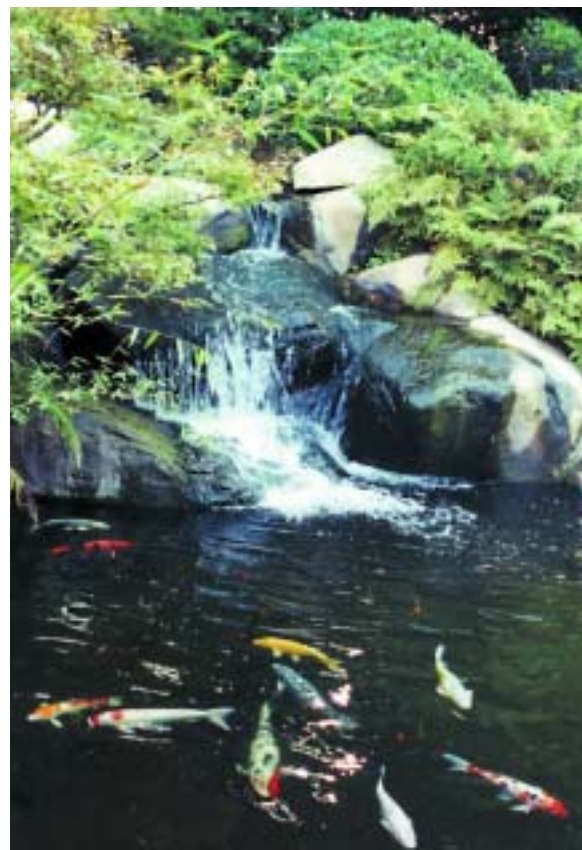


During the Chrysanthemum Festival, the various arts, music and dance of Japan are demonstrated.

called Ikebana. A few flowers and leaves in a shallow dish lined with pebbles made a powerful statement of tranquility and beauty. Kabuki dancers performed. Taiko drummers pounded the resonant

drums in rhythms dating back to feudal times. Martial art students demonstrated Kendo and Aikido. Chado, the tea ceremony, was observed with reverence and made all in attendance feel the bond of friendship. A few carefully placed brush strokes developed into a beautiful painting called Sumi-e or brush painting. All of these activities took place in the beautiful and serene garden fashioned after the gardens in Japan.

This beautiful and tranquil setting on 1.3 acres took three years of planning. Dedicated in 1981,



Zen Nippon Airinkai of Southern California, the largest Koi club in the area, helps with the maintenance of the Koi pond.



The 1.3 acre Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden at California State University in Long Beach includes a traditional Zen garden

the garden was built in memory of Earl Burns Miller through a generous donation by his widow, Lorraine Miller Collins. At the dedication of the garden, Ed Lovell, landscape master plan architect for the university commented, "The garden will mellow in about 30 years. What we are doing is creating something of beauty and value for people we will perhaps never meet."

The focal point is the large Koi pond in the center. A winding path around the pond is lushly landscaped and provides the visitor with opportunities for quiet reflection.

The entry gate is modeled after a gate in Kyoto, Japan. Just inside the gate, two lion dogs, (koma-inu) mythical creatures, protect the visitor from evil spirits. Bridges, waterfalls, many stone lanterns, bamboo groves, and large stones all transport the guest to another time and place, leaving all the cares of the city behind. Weddings and social receptions are often scheduled at the gardens. Zen Nippon Airinkai of Southern California, the largest Koi club in the area, helps with the maintenance of the Koi pond and holds their fish auction on the grounds every November.

Lorraine Miller Collins wrote: "I have a dream for

this garden. When a person is tired or anxious, or in quest of beauty, they may enter and come forth refreshed to meet the problems of the day. There will be music of the wind through the pines, music from the waterfalls and the birds. There will be serenity as you walk around the lake, and joy, I hope, in the beauty of the reflections in that lake. There will be iris and azaleas in the spring, flowering magnolia in the summer. In the fall, chrysanthemums and the golds of the liquid amber trees. There will be strength and solidarity in the rocks and the wooden bridges. And, of course, there will be bamboo, a favorite wood of the Japanese because it is so useful and beautiful. There is an old proverb that says, 'Bamboo bends but never breaks.' It is my hope that as you leave your tour of the garden, you will find in your heart that proverb, and the day will be filled with joy." ♡

Pam Spindola is an avid Koi hobbyist who shared her love of these special fish with her late husband, Bob. Her wish with this feature: "May all of the readers be blessed with similar serenity and peace in the new millennium."



From across the large Koi pond, visitors enjoy the scene of mature weeping willows and an arched bridge.

Tropical and Hardy WATER LILIES FOR ALL SEASONS

Text and Photos by Paula Biles

Paula helps you decide which type of water lily to plant in your pond.

All water lilies are in the botanical genus *Nymphaea*. Within this division are two distinct groups of lilies that cannot cross breed – tropical and hardy. The outstanding characteristics of each are discussed along with a list of the most popular varieties, including brief descriptions. This should help you decide which to plant this season.

As you may guess from their names, hardy water lilies are native to cold climates, and tropical lilies come from subtropical or tropical areas of the world. Although they go dormant around September or October, hardy lilies will survive weather if their horizontal rhizomes do not actually freeze and begin growing again in May or June. The tropical lily group begins growth when the water temperature reaches 70°F and continues blooming up north until after the first frost or throughout the winter in warmer zones. However, in cold climates, they will not survive low winter temperatures, so the round tubers must be dug up and protected in a basement or garage.

The biggest different between the two groups is in the blooms. Hardy lilies come in red, pink, white, and yellow varieties, with the blossom floating on the water surface or standing just

above it. The blooms seldom are scented, have few blooms per plant, and are day bloomers only. On the other hand, tropical lily blossoms are bigger and better in several ways. The colors are more intense, also come in blue and purple, have more blooms per plant, are larger blossoms, have a longer blooming season, bloom high above the water, are very fragrant, and include night bloomers.



Marliac's *N. 'Chromatella'* has been a favorite hardy water lily since 1890 for its adaptability to any size pond and its cheery profusion of sunny yellow blooms.

When it comes to the rest of the plant, other differences exist between hardy and tropical water lilies. Leaves on the hardies are smaller, rounder, and a little thicker than the tropicals. The leaves have smooth edges and are usually a solid green color. Tropicals are more likely to have mottled, variegated, or bronze colored lily pads. Only tropical varieties may be viviparous – have the ability to grow new plantlets from existing leaves. Hardy plants are generally smaller than tropical, although dwarf varieties can be found in both.

Factors to consider when deciding upon tropical or hardy (or both) begin with your location. In the South, not all hardies will do well, especially some of the red and pink varieties. Up North, tropicals need extra care to survive more than a single season. However, don't let the extra work of storing the tubers for the winter deter you from planting tropicals. The rewards of more blooms and a longer blooming season can make it worthwhile to simply discard the plant at the end of the season and start over the next spring. (Remember, if the water is heated for your Koi, tropicals can have an extended growing season in your pond.) My bias towards tropicals is strong. They have a wider range of blossom color, bloom more and longer, have an exquisite fragrance, include night bloomers, and have many different lily pad colors and patterns.

The decision about which variety of tropical or hardy also revolves around your blossom preferences and whether you have the sunlight required for most lilies to bloom. If you don't have full sun (4 to 6 hours per day), be sure to pick varieties that will bloom with lower light levels. Select tropicals if you like blooms that stand above the water. If you work during the day or entertain in the evenings, tropical night bloomers are wonder-



The very fragrant blossoms of tropical *N. 'Tina'* are blue-violet, free flowering, and continue late in the season. The plant has a medium spread, does well in a container, and takes low light levels. The leaves are highly viviparous.



Many day blooming tropical water lilies are viviparous from their leaves, forming tiny clones at the leaf's sinus.



The numerous blooms of *N. 'Emily Grant Hutchings'*, held high above the surface, are a deep rosy pink. The bronze color foliage is compact, so even though the plant's spread is medium to large, it does well in smaller ponds, unlike most night bloomers.



Perhaps the late Monroe Birdsey's greatest achievement, the tropical daybloomer, N. 'Albert Greenburg' remains as a lasting memorial to a great and dear man.

ful additions to your pond: they bloom when you have the time to enjoy them. Color schemes can be as simple or complicated as you like. A single variety can be very attractive, as can a combination of several in the same pond. Many people mix day and night bloomers so something is always blooming. Others match the color schemes with their landscaping or house. College graduates have been known to plant lilies in their college colors. It's even possible to coordinate with all the classifications of Koi.

Speaking of Koi, dwarf and compact plants allow you to have water lilies and still have high visibility of your fish. Both hardy and tropical varieties come in all sizes from pygmies to giants.

To sum up the water lily family, both hardy and tropical lilies are beautiful and have a place in the water garden or Koi pond. Your individual pond, personal preferences, and growing conditions will determine which type will best com-

plement the rest of your aquatic landscape. ♡

This article is reprinted with permission from KOI USA magazine. (March/April 1998) Paula Biles writes regularly for KOI USA, as well as teaching water gardening and aquatic plant classes at Selby Botanical gardens in Sarasota, Florida, and around the U.S. She is president of the Florida West Coast Koi & Water Garden Club.



The tropical N. 'Trudy Slocum' may be harder to locate, but it is worth the trouble. Opening earlier than most night bloomers, it is very free flowering and reproduces easily.

PAULA BILES' TOP 12 LILY LIST

'Panama Pacific' (tropical)

There are several reasons this has been such a popular lily since the early 1900's. It has an intense purple flower that is extremely fragrant. It is a very undemanding but adaptable lily, doing well in light shade and in small ponds. Its prolific blooms stay open longer than most lilies, and it even blooms all year long in zone 9b. The leaves are viviparous and lightly speckled.

'Perry's Baby Red' (hardy)

This recent hybrid has darker foliage on a very compact plant and thrives in all sized ponds, including tubs. It has deep red blooms, is a heavy bloomer, and does well even in the South.

'James Brydon' (hardy)

Suited for colder climates, this reliable bloomer has rosy red flowers and dark marbled leaves. Also good for container gardens, it blooms in partial shade, but it is not good in the South.

'Helvola' (hardy)

This pygmy plant has tiny canary yellow blossoms and is a prolific bloomer. Its small spread makes it ideal for any pond, but especially for a container garden.

'Trudy Slocum' (tropical, night bloomer)

This white blooming variety may be harder to locate, but it is worth the trouble. Opening earlier than most night bloomers, it is very free flowering and reproduces easily.

'Chromatella' (hardy)

A reliable favorite since 1890, it bears prolific golden yellow flowers, excellent for cutting. This adaptable plant is good for all sized ponds, even small containers, and it is suitable for low light situa-

tions.

'Colorado' (hardy)

This recent hybrid is the first salmon-pink variety, with blooms just above the water. Doing well in both the North and the South, the plant has a medium spread.

'Albert Greenburg' (tropical)

This exceptional bloomer is very fragrant and stays open until late in the day. Its yellow-orange blooms can continue past the first frost. The highly mottled foliage has a medium to large spread.

'Tina' (tropical)

The very fragrant blossoms are blue-violet, free flowering, and continue late in the season. The plant has a medium spread, does well in a container, and takes low light levels. The leaves are highly viviparous.

'Texas Dawn' (hardy)

This is the largest hardy lily bloom and makes an excellent specimen planting for both Northern and Southern climates. The golden yellow blooms extend above the water surface, and the mottled leaves have medium to large spread.

'Director George T. Moore' (tropical)

The deepest purple of all water lilies, it blooms an intense violet-blue with a golden center. It needs as little as three hours sun per day to bloom. Although the plant has a medium to large spread, the foliage is compact.

'Emily Grant Hutchings' (tropical, night bloomer)

Held high above the surface, the numerous blooms are a deep rosy pink. The bronze color foliage is compact, so even though the plant's spread

The Cart Before The Horse

Text and photos by Buddy Nixon, Kent, CT

It all started with a fountain...

Originally, the pond location was a stone Japanese garden. Then, after acquiring a bronze fountain at a Massachusetts antique shop, we needed a water environment to take advantage of the fountain. This was one of those 'cart before the horse' situations that pushed us into water gardening.

At first, we just wanted a simple basin to place the fountain in to circulate water through the various openings. As with most simple projects, it became a major production number.

Since my hobby is working with field stone in the construction of walls, retaining walls, columns, foundations, stone patios, arches, etc., I wanted to use the stone on our seven-acre property in the design of a natural pond. The house is located in Kent, Connecticut, which is in the northwest corner of Connecticut in Litchfield County.

Since this was not going to be a one-man job, I retained the services of Hoskins Nursery in Watertown, CT, who specialize in water gardens. I cannot say enough about the design and construction expertise they brought to the project. The first obstacle encountered was the ledge, which resulted in blasting to obtain the desired shape and depth. In excess of 75 tons of stone were dragged and/or lifted by tractor from the surrounding hills on the property to



When you buy a fountain, it helps to have somewhere to put it.

the pond location.

The pond's final dimensions are approximately 30' x 25' with a depth ranging from 1 1/2' to 4' using 11,000 to 12,000 gallons of water. The three waterfalls and fountain utilize three Beckett 3400 GPH and one Hydromatic SP50 9,800 GPH pumps. The filtration system uses the Aqua Ultraviolet Predator 15.0. The low voltage lighting fixtures are by Escort Lighting.

By now, a variety of hardy and tropical plants are thriving in the pond. The landscaping



Excavating the hole for the fountain's pond required blasting.



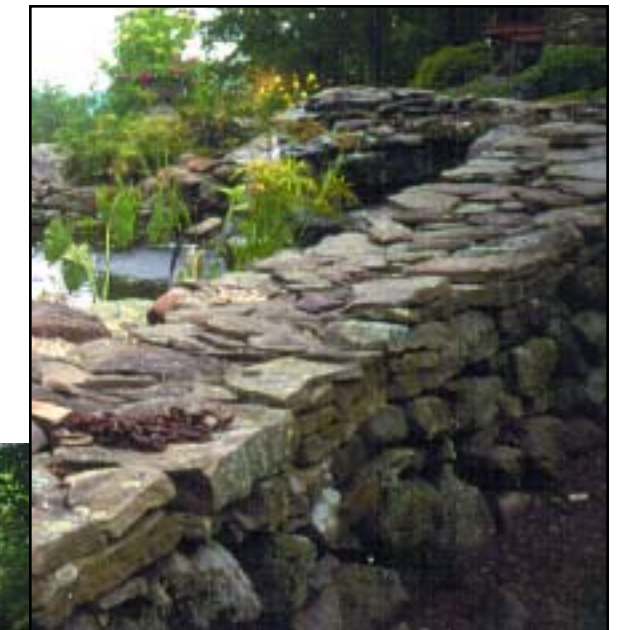
The pond excavation is fully lined.



You don't have to sit next to the Nixon pond to enjoy it; this is the view from their home.

around the edge and in the stone crevices features sedum, ornamental grasses, hemlock (Sargent and Coles prostrate). This complements the perennial borders and collection of specimen trees on the property.

Also, we have just put our first Koi in the pond who seem to be very happy in their new home. In just the first few weeks of being operational, the pond has become the center of our outdoor activities, and I am sure it will remain so for many years to come. 🐠



Buddy's hobby of working with field stone was put to good use creating walls and arches around the pond.

Forget-Me-Not

...A TRIBUTE TO FOSTER CHILDREN

By Chris Wendel

The Eastern Iowa Pond Society remembers May is National Foster Care Month.

I remember growing up in foster care. The things most kids take for granted – family, home, and security – took a backseat for me. Instead, I fought to survive the basics. If you don't know that that means, ask a street kid. For me, I survived parental divorce and alcoholism, sibling physical abuse, stranger sexual abuse, and five foster homes before age 18.

I never forgot, and I promised myself that I would never forget. After I was free from the childhood nightmare, I met the man I would marry and create a family of my very own. At the same time, I also found new, restorative faith in my Creator.

At the ripe age of 22 years, I became a foster parent. Today as I write this, our family has grown to include three birth daughters, one new grandbaby and twenty years of foster parenting countless children. It does not matter if we've foster 50 or 100 of them. What does matter is the seeds of love and encouragement that we sow in their hearts...and my promise never to forget.

Currently, across the lands of America, there are approximately 530,496 youth living in out-of-home places. (1996 stats/Child Welfare League of America) These children



live in foster or group homes, hospitals, institutions. Countless others take to the streets. Due to confidentiality issues, these children are hidden from the public eye to protect them and their families from further distress.

It is with this thought in mind that I, along with a handful of others in our community, meet together once a month to discuss ways to increase public awareness of the plight of these



Staying to the finish for a job-well-done, left to right: Chris Wendel, Jackie Allsup, Larry Roser, Dennis Sindelar, Dennis Wendel, Roger Inmon, Harry Allsup, Rick Fangman, Jim Sealman, Pat and Wayne Beuter.



By the September '99 Fall Festival, the Forget-Me-Not Pond was well on its way to being established.

special youth. In a planning meeting in March of '99, Sue Strever from the Iowa Foster Care Citizen Review Board partnered with our local Department of Human Services Ad-Hoc committee, where representatives from child agencies gathered to brain-storm ideas for promoting the National Foster Care Month of May. Sue's idea to plant a dedication garden sparked my interest.

As a member of the Eastern Iowa Pond Society, the wheels inside my head spun full sped with the thought of a water garden, with kids, fish, and frogs! Through my backyard ponding experience, I knew this would be a great educational and healing opportunity that we could give these children and the foster families who care for them.

The ripple effect of these planning waters spread far and wide over the course of the next few months, all the way to the present, today. The seed of this garden idea grew to reality, with many people sharing time, talents, and resources.

May 22, 1999, was the first sunny spring day out of a million rainy ones. Seventeen volunteers from the pond club met in the early morning hours at the Cedar Valley Arboretum in Waterloo, Iowa, to break ground for the new foster care water garden. Not only did the Eastern Iowa Pond Society fund this project, but they worked

together with joy, fun, and determination to make this tribute to foster children a reality. Working as a team for the love of children, we finished the pond in seven hours.

Flower plants with children's names (daisy, sweet William, rose, etc) were donated by a local nursing home health care center. A local Brownie troop and daycare group, along with my own foster children, planted these flowers



Three-year-old Grant Kelley helped with the project.



Members of the Eastern Iowa Pond Society pitched in to set the pond's liner.



A day's work, well done.

on June 2nd. Releasing goldfish into their new 'foster home' embodied the message to these children that even fish, when given care and nourishment, can adapt to a new environment. A plaque memorial was donated by a local business and placed in the garden to honor these children. It reads:

Forget-Me-Not

Dedicated to all children in foster care who, like flowers, will bloom and grow when given roots and tender loving care. May 1999

And honor it does. Last year over 3,000 people visited the botanical gardens and the forget-me-not pond. During the fall, children caught and tagged butterflies while the adults learned about the joys of water gardens. And yes, I was there, handing out poems



Daycare children and a local Brownie troupe, standing in for foster children, released goldfish into their new home.

about 'my kids' and the foster care cause.

The ripple effect of these waters continue today as our planning committee prepares for this May's big event. On May 23, exactly one year and one day after the birth of our pond, we are planning a celebration. Foster families will meet at the site for a time of fellowship, food, laughter, and fun. The children will be busy feeding fish, sailing their boats, and being entertained through the love and care of special folks from our community. Celebrating not only foster families, they will celebrate the fact that people in all walks of life do reach out, making new connections and forming new friendships. Most of all, they will send the message, "You are not forgotten!"

Truly, this has been a tribute to our nation's foster children and to people like myself, who refuse to forget. I do not regret the things that happened early on in my life as they paved a way for me to clear up the muddy waters of yesteryear, to instill in my family and others the power of resilience to forgive and to go on. I have reclaimed my childhood a hundred times through the children that God has sent to my door. Foster children, like flowers, bloom and grow when given roots and tender loving care.

Volunteerism is Alive and Well!

ANGEL MEMORIAL GARDEN, SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

Text by Ian and Phyllis Donnelly

Photos by Jim Lersh

The Springfield Water Garden Society joins in an outreach to their community.

In early March of 1999, I received an unusual phone call from Marion Diggons, the Assistant Volunteer Coordinator at the Kitchen, Inc., a temporary shelter for the less fortunate folks here in Springfield. The Kitchen is operated by a wonderful, unselfish nun, Sister Lorraine Beibel, who had just celebrated 50 years of helping folks.

The gist of the phone call was to ask me if I'd be interested in helping design and build a garden for the residents of the Kitchen. I was contacted because I am a Master Gardener, but more importantly, I guess, because I have a well-known love of gardens. I agreed to come look at the proposed project and met with Sister Lorraine, Ms. Diggons and Brady Shuert, Director of Volunteers. I had seen Sister Lorraine many times on our local news as she has always been very active in local affairs, especially when it concerns the Old Town area of Springfield where the Kitchen's hotel is located. Suffice to say, Sister Lorraine is a lady to be reckoned with; one does not say 'no' to



Phyllis Donnelly planted many of the donated plants.

Sister Lorraine.

The Kitchen complex comprises approximately a city block with an older hotel, apartments for resident employees, a day care center, and other services. Within the complex are a few open spaces, including the large plot that Sister Lorraine felt would be an ideal spot for a



Ian and a crew of community volunteers took Ian's design from paper to reality.



The pre-existing angel statue, a memorial to a child, became the garden's theme.

quiet, meditative area where residents could come to spend quiet time.

The 80x125-foot-lot had several small trees and shrubs scattered about, along with a covered picnic building and gazebo, as well as a central flowerbed with a concrete angel statue, a memorial to a small child, which gives the garden its name. It was around this angel memorial that the garden was designed. To execute the design, we turned to the Springfield Water Garden Society and the Springfield community.

The flowerbed was enlarged and surrounded by mulch paths. Four concrete benches from Wildwood Antiques and Statuary would provide pause. We framed the area with evergreens that will grow to enclose the area and provide a quiet place for meditation. The path leading out of this area passes through a tunnel-like arbor planted with flowering vines and opens to a

small grotto sheltering a statute of St. Francis of Assisi. Mulched pathways wind among the variously sized, island flower beds, incorporating existing structures and plantings. Evergreens on the street side soften the view of city buildings and provide privacy.

The project was not without problems. There was the constant battle with Bermuda grass, as well as a serious drought, which kept Sister Doris and others busy with the water hoses. Then there was a broken water pipe, which had to be dug up for repairs. In the process, several plants had to be moved and replanted, and the gazebo had to be moved as well.

While all this activity on the Memorial Garden was taking place, so was the planning and construction of the water garden that is about 300 yards away. This was being tackled by my cohorts in the Springfield Water Garden



Sister Doris's watering crew had able assistance.

Society, led by president Linda Siler, who keeps the Society very active in many volunteer projects. The pond was dug by residents of the Kitchen and is situated in a small flower garden area accented

by an arbor and benches. The pond holds about 500 gallons that are recycled with a 1200 GPH pump. The liner and pump were generously donated by O'Quinn's Nursery. Bricks, donated by Acme Brick Co., were used to edge the pond and to build the waterfall. Eventually, a low hedge will grow around the pond to form a small barrier. Labor, water

plants and fish were provided by members of the Water Garden Society.

In fact, almost all materials in the project were donated by a variety of businesses and individuals, with many plants coming from as far away as Indiana. T-N-T Tree Service provided the woodchips for the paths; Wal Mart donated bags of dirt and compost; Meeks Lumber donated rebar, a wheelbarrow and other much needed materials; Dickerson Park Zoo donated "Zoo Doo"; Springfield Topsoil donated several loads of topsoil, and many merchants sold us materials at discounted prices. Jim Lersh, a local professional photographer and water garden club member, spent most of one day photographing the work in progress at the Memorial Garden, while Debbie Robbins, water garden secretary, took pictures at the water garden site.

Of course, if it weren't for all the volunteer workers, the garden would still be a drawing on a piece of paper. Brady was tireless in his work with a varied labor force, which included Gardening Angels Michelle Turvey, Vicki Paterson, Kathy Wittmer and Diana Jones. A wonderful group from American Family Insurance led by Angela Tutor did the bulk of the grunt work. Scout troupes and many unsung individuals rolled up their sleeves and pitched in.

Still, there is much work to be done: flower beds to be planted, vines on trellises to soften the

brick buildings, and installation of two wrought iron arbors that were built and donated by Skip Drake, another Water Garden Society member.

It will be several years before the gardens reach maturity, and during that time there will be changes and refinements. As every gardener knows, a garden is never really finished. It always remains a work in progress. It has been a great pleasure for everyone involved in this project and we all sincerely hope it will provide a place of peace and meditation for the folks of downtown Springfield. We further hope it will live up to the vision of Sister Lorraine.☺



Ian Donnelly, in his trademark overalls, designed and directed the Garden's creation.



Ian and Debbie Robbins ponder where to site the aquatic plants donated by Springfield Water Garden Society members.